

THE DAGLIGTALE

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The Verdict Is In: Augustana's Got Talent



AGT's first place winner Ian Skinner plays an original song he wrote. PHOTO: Robyn Sheremeta

Jennifer Ha DAG WRITER

On February 13th, The Augustana Students' Association held their first-ever talent show, Augustana's Got Talent. The promotions for the event boasted limo rides to The Rusty Spur, drink specials, and a grand prize of \$1000. Over twenty acts signed up to perform, ranging from singing and playing guitar, an aerial acrobatic performance.

The promises of the posters were met. A limo made rounds from campus to the Rusty Spur approximately every fifteen minutes. However, only ten people could fit in the limo at a time. Two hundred tickets were printed for the event and the ten-person limo resulted in considerable delays for people waiting for rides on campus. The drink special for the night was \$3.75 Caesars, of which many patrons took advantage.

The prize money—\$1000 for first place, \$500 for second, and \$250 for third place—comes from the University of Alberta Student Union's Student Engagement Fund. \$10,000 grant the ASA applies for every year. With this year's money, the ASA has put on AGT as well as Casino Night, and has plans to pay for a hypnotist show as well.

Tickets for the event were \$2, with the profits going towards Kisses for CAN-FAR, The Canadian Foundation for AIDS Research. The event was sold out and the

bar was packed. Seating arrangement was a bit of a problem at the Rusty Spur. The small stage did not cater to movement performances, which subsequently had to be held on the floor. The audience, then, had to stand around the floor area to see the performances. Many people ended up only partially viewing the performances. However, the audience was still enthusiastic and engaged throughout the three-hour event.

When asked how the idea of the event got started, ASA's International Representative Thomas Trombetta replied, "I noticed that Augustana has a lot of talented people. My friends and I talk about writing poetry or being in the choir. [...] Very often these talents go unnoticed and I wanted an opportunity for students to showcase their talents for the school and be appreciated."

Prior to the performance, the performers auditioned for the ASA to ensure the family friendliness logistics of their performance, such as the length and the equipment needed. The process was not meant to eliminate or judge the performers, but to aid them when the time to perform came.

The first act featured eight talents. Notable performances included Taylor Bulger's 25 song medley and Alexander Kehinde's innovative rap performance of an

original piece. After intermission, the second act began with Anna Duitruk blowing the audience away with an aerial acrobatic performance which included fire breathing. Eight more acts followed Duitruk's fierce performance. The night ended with an impressive performance by four members of the Camrose Spirals skipping team.

The judges were a true highlight of AGT. The panel consisted of Paul "Sparky" Johnson, 4th year biology student Stephanie Booth, and Augustana alum and current admissions advisor Lucas Hudec. They provided helpful, constructive criticism and witty commentary throughout the night.

After the performances and careful deliberation, five acts were chosen as finalists: Bulger's medley, Duitruk's acrobatic performance, Brittany Catherine's performance of her original song "Make You Pay", the Camrose Spirals, and Ian Skinner's performance of his original, "Queen", a song about the glory and pain of love.

After moments of suspense, fueled by the audience's drumroll, ASA President Jame Vy announced the winners: Duitruk in third place, the Camrose Spirals in second, and Ian Skinner coming in first as the winner of \$1000. Skinner said that the victory is still surreal to him: "I put my heart into this song

and this performance and to be rewarded in this way makes me very glad. I am extremely grateful to everyone involved and honored to have won the first Augustana's Got Talent. I'm very proud of my performance and the performances of the other acts. I was happily surprised by the diversity and brilliance of the acts. We should all be proud of the amount of unique talent found at this school."

Skinner will use the money towards paying to be a part of Augustana Choir's trip to Halifax this summer. "And maybe a couple more harmonicas too," he added jokingly.

Carley Angelstad, a second year Augustana student and a member of the Camrose Spirals, said of her experience: "I was nervous to perform. Jump ropes and bars don't seem like they would mix but it's something I can now cross off my bucket list. I have crazy stage fright but my teammates and I have been skipping together for years, so we know how to cheer for each other and work together."

AGT was a school event the first of its kind—great performances, a sold-out audience, and proceeds going to a good cause. The ASA thanked the audience members for their enthusiasm, the judges for their participation, and the performers for their talents and courage.

Stephanie Gruhlke is Augustana's First-Ever SU Candidate Robyn Sheremeta DAG EDITOR



PHOTO: Judeah Negre

Running for the Students' Union's Vice President Academic position was not initially what Stephanie Gruhlke had planned for her fourth year of university:

"Over the summer and going into this year, I was expecting to re-run for Vice President Academic [at Augustana]. Around November I started looking at what [SU VPA] Dustin Chelen was doing and I started thinking to myself, 'I could do this and I could do this well.' The original plan was for me to serve one more year as a student council member and then run next year, and [in December I decided] if I was going to make the jump, I was going to do it [in] 2015. But I talked with people and someone asked me, 'why wait?' and I couldn't answer them."

From February 14 to March 6 Gruhlke will be taking a leave of absence from Augustana in order to head her campaign at North Campus. During this two-week period she will visit various classrooms, meet with students one on one and participate in candidates' forums to advertise her platform. Because she will be in Edmonton so often, Gruhlke will live in Edmonton rather than commute back and forth from Camrose every day. Her parents live in Edmonton, which will make it easier for her since she can work from home.

According to the Students' Union website, the Vice President Academic "represents and advocates for student interests within the

University community and beyond." The VPA also serves as the main lobbyist to University administration for issues that affect undergraduate students in the classroom, and "facilitates involvement in student government via Faculty Associations, GFC student representatives, and other University committees."

Since Augustana's merger with the University of Alberta in 2004, not a single student from the Camrose campus has run for an executive position on the SU. This is partially because Augustana students are able to sit on the Augustana Students' Association Student Council, and also because Students' Union on North Campus is over an hour away, and councillors and executives of the SU face a far more demanding schedule.

When asked why she decided to run for the position on North Campus, Gruhlke replied, "There are a few reasons. I think that it will be really good to have an Augustana student; someone who came up in the Augustana values running for this position. We are a campus of the University of Alberta [and] we've never had a student leader try and make the jump before, and I think this year will be a good year for that." Although the VPA position has only existed for three years at Augustana, Gruhlke thinks that her predecessors would have done a good job had they chosen to run for the same position, and she can think of a few people at Augustana who could also excel

in such a position: the issue is simply that no one else has ever put their name in.

Gruhlke's choice to run for office on North Campus does not mean she is leaving Augustana behind. Gruhlke, who is a third-year political studies and history double major, plans on taking five years to complete her Bachelor of Arts degree, and if she is elected she will live in Edmonton during the 2014-15 academic year and return to Augustana in her fifth year to graduate. She said, "I want to put so much work into my liberal arts degree, I want to finish it."

Being an Augustana student has given Gruhlke some unique skills that students at North Campus may not necessarily have. Her liberal arts education has moulded her into an effective communicator, and Gruhlke argues that being educated on a small campus has given her a great advantage:

"I think that Augustana students have an experience that is completely different [from] any other U of A classroom, and in my personal opinion, I am in small classes, I am on friendship terms with some of my professors, and the relationships that are built at Augustana is just ... like a little safe haven. I'm not naive enough to say that I can go to North Campus and say 'I want all classes to have under a hundred students' but I think that the underlying values on teaching and on the undergraduate student experience [...] can affect what you fight for."

Gruhlke's campaign "instead of waiting, some platforms will focus on four times weeks, to see an advisor, who may or may not be able to answer your question, for students and 'balancing your professor research with a Beartracks account, get an advisement report immediately, and create 'what-if' situations. If you are thinking about switching your degree or your program, you simply enter your current area of study and your desired area of study and Beartracks will evaluate what courses you still need, if the ones you've taken fill some requirements, and if you'll end up having to take more years of study than you originally planned. Hopefully this online software will allow for more valuable time spent with advisors, take pressure off of advisement offices, and students will get degree related answers sooner and in the comfort of their own home (or dorm)."

Gruhlke's campaign manager is Stephanie Corbett, who is the Faculty of Education Councillor of the SU, and was also one of the first friends Gruhlke made when she began sitting on the SU Students' Council as the Augustana representative.

Gruhlke has already amassed a group of dedicated volunteers at Augustana and North Campus who will help her run her campaign smoothly, but she is still looking to forge more connections in Edmonton.

The next two weeks will surely go by quickly for Gruhlke, but she is still enthusiastic: "I love my job, I like what it does, and that's one of the reasons that I decided to run for [the position on] North Campus. I think that having a good relationship and having the skills needed to maintain a certain relationship with administration but still having the ability to stand up for what you believe in is important in this position, and I'm excited to hopefully do it at North Campus next year."

Voting will take place on March 5 and 6 and all voting will occur online. All current University of Alberta undergraduate students are eligible to vote in the SU election.

Lastly, she hopes to implement online advisement reports that could lessen the wait time, and resulting frustration, of booking an appointment with an academic advisor. Gruhlke said,

Students, Council Divided Over Proposed International Student Scholarship

Lee Metruec DAG WRITER

It is common knowledge that international student tuition is higher than that of Canadian students at [the University of Alberta]. On average, international students' tuition costs \$18,710 [compared to Canadian tuition of \$6,659] and with the recent 5% increase to their tuition, this number is increasing another \$935 to \$16,645. Canadian students, on the other hand, have only had a 1% increase to their tuition.

Recently the Augustana Students' Association has introduced a possible way to help with this issue. Thomas Trombetta, the International Students' Representative of the ASA, initially proposed the idea for the ASA to fund an international students' scholarship. He suggested that the ASA fund \$500 for international students in an annual scholarship that is based on leadership. Both the ASA and members of the student body were quite divided on this idea.

Anemiekie Froning is a mature student at Augustana, and she understands the difficulty of paying the expensive cost of tuition with no financial aid. She said that when she applied to Augustana she had no chances for financial aid, but she accepted that and had applied anyway. Froning had some serious objections to the initial proposal for this international students' scholarship. She stated that she didn't believe it was a good idea to use the SA money for one particular group or one particular student. She also believes that giving precedence to one minority group makes the others feel ignored, and is a form of segregation in the Augustana community.

Froning believes that

any student who needs help, no matter what group they are from, should have the resources, and that we should all help them. She questions why the money would be used for a scholarship that will be awarded to one student, rather than to be used to help all of the international students that are in need.

A revision was made to the international students' scholarship, to have it based

on GPA and financial need, rather than leadership. The revised scholarship was still worth \$500 and funded by the ASA. This diminished some of the reservations that ASA members had, but there was still the issue of having the scholarship funded by the ASA, which several members objected to. Council members raised the thought that it would be a better idea to advocate to the university in order to find a donor, and that way the ASA would not have to fund an international students' scholarship using the students' money.

Froning's main concern with the international students' scholarship proposal was that the students' money would be used for the benefit of only one person. When informed that the ASA planned to find a donor for the scholarship, she had fewer objections to the idea. She noted that it was good for

only other objection was the fact that the ASA is still placing precedence on only the international students group, and to her they are showing a lack of concern for other groups.

Jame Vy, president of the ASA, noted that the idea for an international students' scholarship has come a long way from the initial proposal. They are now looking for a donor, so that the students would not have to pay for the scholarship, and the initial amount has been increased from \$500 to \$1000.

The formation of an international students' scholarship is by no means certain, but the ASA is working hard to find a donor. If they are able to find one, the scholarship will certainly be useful in helping international students to cover the immense expenses that they face at Augustana.

[Other members of the international students to the ASA were approached, but declined to comment]

What Are Campus Ambassadors All About? Tiffani Blatchford DAG WRITER

One of the most effective methods used to recruit prospective students to our campus is the program offered by the Campus Ambassadors. Three separate services are available to students who are considering coming here, all specially crafted to make those who visit our school want to stay.

The first thing Campus Ambassadors do is host Preview Days. You may have noticed some days when there seem to be large crowds of young, oblivious people crowding the forum and the cafeteria, led by an Ambassador in a black jacket with green writing. If so, what you saw was likely a Preview Day. Preview Days last semester were held on October 18 and November 22. There are two coming in March, on the first and the twenty-eighth. Campus Ambassador Jessica Riches says that Preview Day "provides the best experience for prospective students."

The aim of Preview Day is to give prospective students an idea of what joining the Augustana community is all about. Prospective students get the opportunity to go on a tour led by a current student acting as Campus Ambassador. Doing this allows them to experience what being a student here is like. They get to talk with other Augustana students, Academic Advisors, and Financial Advisors to learn firsthand what is required for admission.

Students taking the tour also have the chance to get to talk to professors and coaches in the programs of their choice and to speak to an Admissions Advisor. Student For A Day also offers a unique aspect: future stu-



Augustana's Campus Ambassadors. PHOTO: Augustana Campus

dents wishing to experience what life in residence is all about can choose to stay overnight in the first year dorms.

Student For A Day and Preview Days have been hosted at Augustana for a while, but this year the Prospective Students' Office introduced a new option called Weekend Visits. Students who are unable to visit during the week, due to work or school or whatever reason, can sign up to visit on the weekend and are offered a campus tour led by a Campus Ambassador and a meal in the cafeteria, either lunch or supper, their choice.

Current students can now expect to see more prospective students on campus during the week as well as on the weekend. Rather than

complaining about the extra people around on Preview Days, especially when they make the line in the cafeteria longer, current students at Augustana should appreciate and support the effort that the Campus Ambassadors are putting into promoting our school and bringing in more students. Ambassadors work for free and sacrifice a lot of their time, including weekends, to ensure the quality of our school's services and to make sure that the news of Augustana campus gets out to the public. More students could mean more funding and recognition for our campus, which would be beneficial for everyone who attends school or works on campus.

Becoming a Campus Ambassador is a rewarding volunteer opportunity that

helps to promote Augustana and foster a sense of community and pride in our school, as well as helping our campus to grow and become stronger. Making sure that new students continue to keep choosing Augustana is crucial to the school's operation.

Any students interested in becoming Campus Ambassadors should contact Lucas Hudec in the Prospective Student Office, located in the Classroom Building where Learning and Beyond used to be. Applications can be handed in until February 28th.

Getting to Know the Augustana Drama Department

Cam Raynor DAG WRITER

The drama program at Augustana consistently produces quality productions and entertainment for students and the Camrose community. Augustana has an exceptionally talented drama faculty, each with fascinating backgrounds and expertise.

Kristine Nutting is a sessional professor at Augustana. Her current area of interest is contemporary theatre. This was her area of study when she completed her MFA at Berlin. Kristine also creates her own art as an actor, playwright, and filmmaker.

Kristine always wanted to be a teacher, and considers that her focus; however, she is a talented artist as well. Kristine first went to school to get an education degree. To keep sane, she took a few drama courses. After her undergrad she went back to school to complete an MA because she wanted to teach postsecondary students. She found her masters program frustrating and started doing art instead. She got her first professional position acting in Winnipeg and later moved on to writing her own plays. Kristine has also done some acting in film. In 2005 she was in a mockumentary called *The Canadian Beaver*, a satire of Canadian art and feminism that takes itself too seriously. She acted in two films directed by Trevor Anderson; [most] notably *The Man that Got Away*, which was featured in the Sundance Film Festival.

As a professor at Augustana, Kristine has stood out as an exceptional teacher. Last year Kristine won the University of Alberta William Hardy Alexander considered the "mother of

Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching. She recently presented a very successful presentation of work she has done with Augustana students at a conference in Berlin. She also represented Augustana at the Performance Studies International Conference, where she presented on genocide.

Outside the classroom Kristine recently wrote a new play, scheduled to be staged next year. The play is a contemporary version of Romeo and Juliet, offering commentary on our current late capitalist culture and the impossibility of language. She is also working on a film she's written. This summer she will be working with a colleague from Berlin and another from New York, filming the project in Camrose at the end of August. Her film follows two childhood friends, one of whom has Down syndrome, who are reunited. The friends think they've killed somebody and film follows their trials and tribulations. Kristine plans to feature Augustana students in both upcoming projects.

Paul Johnson, better known as **Sparky**, is an expert in improvisation theater. After completing his undergraduate degree, Sparky got his start by acting as a founding member of Catalyst Theatre, an improv theatre company creating socially conscious productions. His first tour was sponsored by the Alberta Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission to address alcoholism.

Around this time, The Second City, a Chicago based improv company founded in part by Paul Sills, won the University of Alberta William Hardy Alexander considered the "mother of

improvisational theater", began to bring shows to Edmonton. Sparky applied to the company and became the first Edmonton native to join the Second City.

Over the years Sills became a mentor, great inspiration, and friend to Sparky. After acting for The Second City, Sparky went back to school to get his masters degree so he could teach drama at the university level. Sparky continued to work with Sills; he spent sabbaticals in New York and L.A. working with Sills and later taught workshops in Wisconsin alongside him. Sills was a pioneer of improvisation theatre, and was the founder of the first improv theater and several prominent US acting schools. In 2011, Sills was inducted into the American Theatre Hall of Fame. Through working with Sills, Sparky has garnered a reputation as one of the top improvisation theatre instructors in North America. Besides teaching at Augustana, Sparky has instructed in American drama schools and conducting workshops for professional actors in L.A. and New York.

Currently Sparky is working to build a strong improvisation stream within Augustana's drama program. This fall his improv class performed weekly Thursday shows at the Bailey Theatre, which by popular request, are continuing through winter term. Sparky is also involved with a project [produced] by a colleague in Seattle to make videos of Viola Spolin's theater games, drawing on his experience teaching the games alongside Spolin's son Sills.

Sparky is also interested in applying improvisation and drama to education theory. He was inspired by a trip to Stanford, where the engineering program has been finding success in extensively incorporating drama teaching into their Masters of Engineering program. Sparky is interested in exploring the applications improv can have in improving students' creativity and spontaneity in the classroom. The use of games in the classroom similar to those used in improvisation theatre has been found to help students balance intellect and intuition and improve learning outcomes.

Kevin Sutley brings an extensive acting and directing background to his teaching at Augustana. Before starting at Augustana, Kevin did a Bachelor of Fine Arts and Masters of Fine Arts at the University of Alberta. He worked for several years as a professional actor and director. Kevin got his start acting for a theatre group that performed shows across western Canada at maximum security institutions. He then did shows for high school students as well as performing in many traditional theatre productions.

Similarly, Kevin had his start directing from working at correctional facilities. His first paid directing job was to work with about a dozen inmates to create a play on family violence. The program had the inmates draw on their past experience to create a play, and Kevin directed it.

A short time before starting to teach at Augustana, Kevin co-founded an Edmonton theatre company called Kill Your Television Theatre. His work with Kill Your Television Theatre has had him nominated several times for a Sterling award for his directing and he has produced several Sterling award winning productions.

Recently Kevin has done some acting work with Shakespeare in the Park in Edmonton, and he plans to do more acting with them this summer. Kevin has a strong interest in Shakespeare; he acted in several Shakespeare productions and recently directed *Love's Labour's Lost* at Augustana this fall and again at North Campus this term.

In Kevin's opinion the drama program at Augustana offers many advantages to its students. The small size of the program means students get to work with the same professors in many courses during their time on campus and professors get to better understand what the student needs to work on most in order to improve. Productions at Augustana are more involved for students. Students not only perform but are involved in all aspects of the production, such as promotion, costume, design, and set building. These skills are valuable, especially upon graduation, where many students will work for small theatre companies or as teachers who will need to understand all aspects of a show.

Below: Kristine Nutting, Sparky Johnson, and Kevin Sutley.



What grinds your gears, Augustana?

Night classes. And early morning classes.

Discussion classes where no one talks.

Living on a dry campus.

Babysitting group members you're forced to work with.

Pride Week: A Celebration of Diversity Megan Alderdice DAG WRITER

From February 26 to March 8, the University of Alberta will be celebrating its campuses' diversity through its annual Pride Week. This week is dedicated to recognizing the university's efforts in creating a "welcoming, inclusive, safe, and respectful environment for sexual and gender minority students, faculty, and staff." Pride Week will bring with it a multitude of fun, engaging, and educational events revolving around the LGBTQ community.

Augustana Queers and Allies (also known as AQUA) have done a large portion of planning for Pride Week activities at Augustana, and co-president Nick Yamley believes that the week of activities is not only fun, but is also an excellent way to increase acceptance and understanding of the LGBTQ community:

"Pride is really important for the queer community because it gives us an opportunity to openly celebrate our identities, build solidarity, bring attention to queer-rights issues, and appreciate the diversity not only of the queer community, but within it as well."

The week will kick off on Wednesday with **Pink Shirt Day**, an internationally observed protest against bullying. The event originated in Nova Scotia in 2007 when a male ninth grade student was bullied for wearing a pink shirt on the first day of school. The day after the bullying incident, two other students at the school organized the first Pink Shirt Day by purchasing and distributing 50 pink tank tops around the school. Since then, the act of wearing a pink shirt on this day has come to symbolize a stand against bullying.

On Augustana's campus, rainbow hot chocolate will also be served in the forum on this day. There will

be a booth set up in the forum giving information regarding "Why Have Pride Week?" and the Erase Words That Hurt display.

From 7-8pm on Thursday, Jan Buterman will be giving a presentation in the library main floor classroom (L1-130). Buterman worked a substitute-teaching job in St. Albert, but was fired in 2008. After he informed the Greater St. Albert Catholic Schools about his sex change, the gender switch was deemed "unacceptable" by the school district and he subsequently lost his job. Since then, his discrimination complaint has been ruled to be heard before the Alberta human rights tribunal. Buterman's presentation on the 27th will highlight and examine challenges faced by transgender people.

There will be a bake sale on Friday between 10 and 2 in the forum. All proceeds will be donated to a queer-friendly charity. Along with the bake sale will be the opportunity for students to make their own Support Pride buttons, in commemoration of Pride Week.

On Monday, March 3, *Call Me Kuchu* will be screening in the Roger Epp Room, Wentland will discuss faith and the LGBTQ community.

Wednesday, March 5 will bring Brenda from the Travelling Tickle Trunk to talk about healthy sexuality and sex positivity. Her queer-friendly presentation will take place from 6-7:30pm in H090. The Travelling Tickle Trunk, which is owned by Brenda herself, is an Edmonton-based sex toy shop dedicated to promoting and inspiring healthy and fulfilling sex. The company aims to encourage sexual expression, embolden people to take pride in their sexuality, and dispel the shame that society seems to surround sex with.

The final day of pride week, March 6, will be commemorated both with a screening of *Two Spirits* in collaboration with the Aboriginal Students Office, and with a rainbow group photo. The film will be playing from 6-7:30 in the Roger Epp Room, and the photo will



Pride Week 2013 rainbow photo. PHOTO: Augustana Campus

Tuesday, from 7-8:30pm in the forum between 12-30 and 1.

Two Spirits documents the hate crime that resulted in the death of 16 year old Fred Martinez, who identified as a "hadieh", or "two spirit".

This Navajo term means that Fred was a male-bodied person who had a feminine essence. Martinez self-identified as a gay male, but he also expressed his feminine essence in the way he dressed and presented himself. He was not a boy who wanted to be a girl, but instead he was both a boy and a girl. In June of 2001, Martinez was brutally and tragically murdered because of how he identified. The film will explore the concepts of gender and sexuality while also detailing a mother's tragic loss of her son.

The rainbow photo will celebrate the diversity among the Augustana community. Those partaking in the event will group together and dress up based on their year. A different colour will

symbolize a different year, and the end result will be a rainbow. First years are instructed to wear blue, second years green, orange or yellow for the third year students, and finally the faculty and staff will be wearing purple.

The university is hoping to raise \$15,000 by the end of the week to cover the costs involved with the events. The money would go toward access-related costs, such as transportation needs and ASL interpretive services, and to raising awareness about Pride Week through posters, banners, and lawn signs. Donations can be made through the university's website.

This year's Pride Week is expected to be very successful in celebrating the diversity among the students at the University of Alberta, and in promoting a respectful, welcoming, and safe environment on all of its campuses.

For more information visit:

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Or Contact Ian Anderson ianderso@ualberta.ca

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Sochi 2014 and the LGBTQ Community Jessica Stambaugh DAG WRITER

With the 2014 Winter Olympics taking place in Russia this year, there is a lot of talk concerning Russia's anti-gay laws and the response of openly gay, potentially closeted, and heterosexual athletes around the world. However, one should first know what is actually illegal in Russia to better understand the motivations of actions taken by athletes.

To fully understand the laws in place now, one must go back to 1991, when the Soviet Union fell. Shortly after this, many anti-gay laws in Russia were broken. 1993 saw being homosexual decriminalized, and 1997 heralded in transgender people being allowed to legally change their gender. The asterisk on that law however, is that there are many obstacles in the way to actually get those surgeries.

Recently Russian authorities have been routinely denying permits for LGBTQ parades and similar events: "ILGA-Europe, the European section of the International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans

and Intersex Association, rates Russia as the least progressive country in Europe for LGBT citizens, ranking it 49th out of the 49 European countries rated in its annual survey."

Before June 2013, regional laws were in place to penalize the "propaganda" of homosexuality. Sochi is one of the cities that had this regional law in place. In June of 2013 a federal law, officially called № 135-ФЗ but referred to as the "Anti-Gay Propaganda Law", was passed to the same effect. What is meant by the propaganda of homosexuality? The law defines propaganda as: "[the] distribution of information that is aimed at the formation among minors of nontraditional sexual attitudes, attractiveness of non-traditional sexual relations, misperceptions of the social equivalence of traditional and nontraditional sexual relations, or enforcing information about non-traditional sexual relations that evokes interest to such relations..."

Essentially, hetero-

sexuality between a biologically "natural" man and woman is the only acceptable form of public sexual relations in Russia. The law stresses more that these "non-traditional" sexual relations in and of themselves are not the problem, but the publicity of them is, on the premise of "protecting the children". Putin stresses that "[they] don't have a ban on non-traditional sexual relations between people," meaning that being homosexual is not a crime in Russia. However, being openly gay is equated with pedophilia in the eyes of Russian law. The price for exhibiting "non-traditional" sexual relations involves heavy fines for Russian citizens, and potential jail time and being deported for foreigners.

Putin, when asked about the anti-gay laws in combination with the Olympics, has been quoted saying that the Olympics are about sport. While he did not say it himself, after watching a television interview with a gay man saying that "sport is

sport" and to "leave us alone", № 135-ФЗ, since the law was implemented on June 30, 2013. At the time of publication, no fines seem to have been handed out during the Olympics as athletes have been putting in quite a bit of effort to make sure that any

support they show for the LGBTQ community follows the rules outlined by both № 135-ФЗ and the International Olympic Committee (IOC). The IOC reminded athletes that "no kind of demonstration or political, religious or racial propaganda is permitted in any Olympic sites".

If the IOC seem to be supportive of the Russian anti-gay propaganda law, keep in mind that the IOC does not restrict athletes at news conferences, and have had this regulation for a long time. Athletes, as mentioned earlier, plan on voicing their support during these conferences as doing so does not go against the regulations posted by the International Olympic committee.

So far, it seems that fines have been handed out to those who refuse to adhere to

Civil Unrest: A Snapshot of Ukraine Kate Anderson DAG WRITER

Since late November of last year, Ukrainians have been holding protests in the streets of Kiev, primarily in Independence Square. The cause of the protests is a dispute over an unsigned trade pact with the European Union. The protests have been termed "Euromaidan".

More specifically, the protests are in response to a sudden change of mind of Ukraine's President, Viktor Yanukovych, who decided not to sign a trade pact with the European Union, which would have strengthened the relationship with Ukraine and the EU. When citizens found out that the pact, which had been long in the making, was not being signed, they fled to "Independence Square", also known as "Maidan Nezalezhnosti" to protest the decision. Yanukovych chose not to sign, and instead opted for a closer tie in trading with Russia.

According to CNN, Ukrainians see these protests as speaking out about choosing between Russia and the European Union. While Yanukovych has alluded to [being pressured by] Russian President Putin to not sacrifice ties between the two countries, Putin has yet to admit anything of the sort publicly, although Russia has stated that they welcome closer ties with Ukraine. It has also been suggested that the terms of the agreement comes with are slightly unpal-



An aerial view of protesters in Independence Square. PHOTO: BBC News

able for Yanukovych, such as freeing his political opponent, the former Prime Minister, Yulia Tymoshenko, from jail. While a government statement ensured the decision was to protect "national security", pro-EU Ukrainians are not so convinced (BBC News).

On the 17th of December, a deal was announced between Russia and Ukraine: Russia would buy Ukrainian government bonds and cut down the price of Russian gas, which a large portion of Ukraine is dependent on for heating during winter. The European Union, and the many protesters, believe that

the positive future of Ukraine can be found in a partnership with the EU, not in further partnering with Russia.

Ukrainian protesters are fighting for a less corrupt, better governed country, and hold to the idea that further relationship and integration into the European Union hold the key. On December 1st, protesters seized Kiev City Hall, and remained there until February 16th, when they agreed to vacate the Hall in exchange for dropping charges against the arrested demonstrators. Tensions still run high, however, and protesters are willing to seize again if charges are not truly

dropped. The protests had been peaceful until January 19th, when the protesters and political opposition leaders held a rally against laws

that the Ukrainian government had passed, stating that unauthorized tents were outlawed and could not be installed in public spaces, as well as putting further restrictions on protests, such as outlawing stages and amplifiers. *The New York Times* speculate that it seemed to be a pass for the government to remove protesters out of Maidan. The protesters and leaders attempted to make a peaceful rally, stating that these new laws encroached

on the freedom of speech, and soon the scene turned violent. Current estimates state that over 100 people have been injured, as well as 6 deaths and 40 abductions that are suspected to be linked to Yanukovych's security forces, according to the EU Observer.

The outcome for this protest-turned-revolution is still unclear, and tensions mount. The European Union has been working for over twenty years to improve the quality of life for Ukrainians and restore democratic rule. Everyone was shocked when Yanukovych changed his mind on an agreement that had been in the works for years with the potential to further integrate Ukraine into the European Union and change Ukraine. Many see Ukraine as a key piece for change, allowing the EU to move further East, while Russia attempts to hold on to the relations that remain. After Ukraine gained its independence after the fall of the Berlin Wall, it became a key player for change and democracy. While much speculation has been had about how much Russia has been involved in making further decisions in Kiev, Yanukovych insists it is a domestic issue, while the rest of Europe waits to see where this "domestic issue" leads.

Opinion: Sochi 2014 Jessica Stambaugh DAG WRITER

While I do not plan to spend a lot of time explaining myself for this piece, I think it is essential (for those of you who do not know me) to understand that I support equal rights for all and consider myself a strong feminist with deep-seated ties to the LGBTQ community. I think that we are all human no matter our sexual orientation, or our preferred gender identity or non-identity.

I want to say a few words regarding the politics surrounding the Winter

Olympics, specifically regarding the LGBTQ community. I think that while we should definitely keep in mind that there are people in other countries whose discrimination still takes place at a government, and therefore legal level, we also have the obligation to try to not lose focus of the point of the Olympics.

I think American figure skater Ashley Wagner said it best when asked if she would stand up against discrimination in Sochi this year. Wagner is well known for her

vocal support of the LGBTQ community in Russia; but said, "It's not my place to go into Russia and tell them how to run their country. I am just an athlete".

To clarify, I fully support those athletes who are willing to be open and honest when asked questions during the new conference parts of the Olympics. In fact, a lot of athletes are using that conference time to specifically speak out about their views. I do not think anyone should have to not feel a certain way

for fear of being penalized. My point with this piece is to ask everyone to keep in mind that the Olympics are a chance for the entire world to come together and compete in a friendly manner.

When the topic of Sochi and the Winter Olympics comes up, all I seem to hear is negative things about Russia. While I tend to agree with a lot of what is being said about the way the country is run, it saddens me that this is what is spoken about, and not how well each coun-

try is doing. We couldn't possibly, as an international sport, have excluded Russia from hosting the Olympics. The best we can do is support those that we can respectfully within the parameters of the host country's laws and hope that by putting forth how normal we find homosexuality, we can change the minds of some anti-gay activists, wherever we find them.

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MARCH 2014

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
23	24 Classes resume Teaching series: Mundel	25 Alumni lecture: Bartlett	26 Pink Shirt Day Philips vocal masterclass Awards Banquet	27 CSAP packages Transgender 101	28 CSAP packages Pride Bake Sale Hockey vs. CUCA	March 1 Preview Day Hockey vs. CUCA
2	3 ASA candidates' forum Pride: <i>Call Me Kuchu</i>	4 Keeping the Faith	5 ASA/SU elections Sex Positive Talk	6 ASA/SU elections Rainbow Photo Pride: <i>Two Spirits</i>	7 ASA grants deadline	8
9	10 Sust. Leadership deadline Recital: Community Band	11	12 Sustainability fair	13	14 Zumba-thon fundraiser	15
16	17 Recital: Mannskor	18 Wellness Week	19 Wellness Week	20 Wellness Week	21 Wellness Week	22
23	24 Theme seminar: Mouat & Prest	25	26	27	28 Preview Day Munch Music	29 Recital: U of A Mixed Chorus

Soup Supper: Tuesdays 5-6 **Chapel:** Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays 10-10:20

Rose City Roots, February 7: Wool on Wolves Olen Hillaby DAG WRITER



On Friday, February 7, 2014, the Rose City Roots Music Society put on another great show at the Bailey Theatre. The Edmonton bands and music-based band Wool on Wolves has been playing since 2008 and over the years has progressed, exhibiting their individual talents and displaying exhilarating performances. Comprised of five university friends who have been playing music most of their lives, WoW's unique feature is that all of the band members are talented songwriters who all have a very active role in writing and producing their music. All members of the band are multi-instrumental musicians, giving the band a very diverse sound. Throughout their shows and within albums listeners can hear electric guitar, bass guitar, violin, har-

monica, trumpet and even accordion. WoW draws inspiration from a wide variety of bands and musicians. However, some common inspirations come from bands like Radiohead, who have been a favorite of the Wolves for a very long time. Another longtime favorite is Wilco, and the fact is often mentioned during their shows and in conversations after their gigs. Wilco seems to be the band that really unites each member's artistic views. Other bands individual members were keen to attribute inspiration include:

Doctor Dog, The Band, National, Bob Dylan and Neil Young. What results is a sound that is unique and deeply based in roots music with rock tones. Constantly evolving and modifying their songs,

songs members would switch around to add just that little extra texture, the violin, trumpet and glockenspiel often could be heard ringing through the band.

One element

WoW have become known for is their particular way of laying out their set list. The band will play slower, softer songs at the beginning of their gigs, which are good for foot tapping, head bobbing music that often leads to the crowd singing along. After playing for well over an hour the band took a short break, giving the crowd some time to mingle and refill their drinks. Coming back on stage, lead singer Tom announced, "As promised we are going to turn things up for the second half" and they did not disappoint.

The second half of the show was fast paced, foot stomping music featuring several fiddle solos. The crowd at the Bailey clearly was into the music in the second half; a casual glance

around could see many people tapping their toes and swaying to the very rhythmic beat the band was playing. Even the band themselves seemed to be deep into their music, especially Tom, who was very animated, moving with the music and often dancing about the stage.

After a standing ovation, the band came out to play their encore. Even though they only played one song it was a long lasting one with many band members taking opportunities to play one last solo. Shortly after the show came out into the lobby of the Bailey Theatre to visit with the crowd and sell their newest album, *Measures of Progress*. Available on both CD and on vinyl, the album was a hot seller, especially with the entire band available to sign the records and CDs. Many people complimented WoW on their much better sound, as well as their new equipment that gave them that little extra edge, and of course, the variety of songs they played.

WoW's albums can be purchased at www.woolonwolves.com, as well as on iTunes.